

POTANY BAY,

NEW HOLLAND.

CONTAINING,

A full Account of the Inhabitants, Description of the Soil and Produce of the Bay. Of the Animals, Fish, and Fowl.

To which is added, the Number and Equipment of the Fleet sailed there, and the Nature of the Establishment with which it is to commence, and the regular Government of the Colony.

Likewise, the Names of the respective Governors, &c. Names of the Ships, and Number of Convicts embarked on Board each of them.

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A Description of *Botany Bay*, in *New Holland*.

BOTANY Bay is situated in the latitude of 34 South, and in longitude 151 22 East. It is a spacious, safe, and convenient harbour for shipping, being only two or three points open to the South of East, and may be known by the land on the sea coast, which is nearly level, and of a moderate height, in general higher than it is farther inland, with steep rocky cliffs near the sea, which have the appearance of a long island lying close under shore. The harbour lies about the middle of this land; the entrance is little more than a mile broad, and lies between the two points of land before mentioned, which is called Cape Banks, and the Southernmost Point Solander. Within this island the water is seventeen fathoms. On entering the harbour, we saw on both these points a few ants, and several of the natives assembled, men, women, and children; and under Point Solander we saw four small canoes, with one man on board each, who were very busily employed in striking fish with a long spike or spear; and were so intent upon what they were doing, that, although the ship passed within a quarter of a mile of them, they scarcely turned their eyes towards her. The place where the ship anchored was abreast of a small village, consisting of about six or eight houses; and while we were preparing to hoist out the boat, we saw a woman, followed by three children, come out of the wood. She was loaded with fire wood, and

each of these children had its little burden. When she came to the house three more children younger than the others came out to meet her; she often looked at the ship, but expressed neither fear nor surprize; in a short time she kindled a fire, and the four canoes came in from fishing. The men landed, and having hauled up their boats, began to dress their dinner, to all appearance wholly unconcerned about us, tho' we were within half a mile of them. The next day ten of the natives who, on seeing the ship approach, used many threatening gestures, and brandished their weapons, particularly two, made a very singular appearance; for their faces seemed to have been dusted with white powder and their bodies painted with broad streaks of the same colour, which passing obliquely over their breasts and backs, looked not unlike the cross belts worn by our soldiers. The same kind of streaks were also drawn round their legs and thighs, like broad garters, and on some a single streak ran from the shoulders diagonally downwards like a sash. Each of these men held in his hand a weapon, which appeared to be about two feet and a half long, and seemed to talk to each other with great exactness. And what is remarkable, all the people whom we had yet seen, had not the least clothing, the old woman herself being destitute of even a fig leaf. We intended to land where we saw the people, and began to hope, that, as they had so little regarded the ship's coming into the bay, they would so little regard our coming on shore.

But, as soon as we approached the rocks, two of the men came down upon us, to dispute our landing, and the rest ran away. Each of these champions was armed with a lance ten feet long, and a short stick, which he seemed to handle as if it were a machine to assist him in managing or throwing the lance. In a very loud tone they called to us, seeming resolved to defend the coast to the utmost, tho' they were but two and we were forty. I could not but admire their courage, and being unwilling hostilities should commence, ordered the boat to lie upon her oars. I threw them nails, beads, and other trifling things, which they took up, and seemed to examine with pleasure. I then made signs that I wanted water, and by all means that I could, endeavoured to convince them I would do them no harm. They now waved to us, and I was willing to interpret it as an invitation; but, upon our putting the boat in, they came again to oppose us. One was a youth about nineteen or twenty, and the other a man of middle age. As I had now no other remedy, I fired a musket between them. Upon the report, the youngest dropt a bundle of lances upon the rock, but it colling himself in an instant he snatch'd them up again with great haste. A stone was then thrown at us, upon which I ordered a musket to be fired with small shot, which struck the eldest upon the leg, and he immediately ran to the house, which was about a hundred yards. I now hoped our contest was over, and immediately landed, but had scarce left the

But when the eldest man returned, and we then
 perceived he left the rock to fetch a shield or target
 for his defence, and as soon as he came up he
 threw a lance at us, and his comrades the same. They
 fell near us, but hurt nobody. A third musket
 with small shot was then fired at them, on which
 one of them threw another lance, and both imme-
 diately ran away. We then repaired to the hut,
 in one of which we found some children, who had
 hidden themselves behind a shield and some bark.
 We peeped at them, and left them without their
 knowing they had been discovered, and threw
 into the hut when we went away, beads, ribbon,
 pieces of cloth, and other presents, which I hoped
 would procure us the good will of the inhabitants
 when they should return, but the lances which
 we found lying about we carried away with us,
 to the number of fifty. They were from six to fif-
 teen feet long, and all of them had four prongs in
 the manner of a fish-gig, each of which was point-
 ed with fish bone, and very sharp. Upon examining
 the canoes that lay on the beach, we found them
 to be the worst of any that we had ever seen; they
 were about fourteen feet long, and made of the
 bark of a tree in one piece, which was drawn toge-
 ther and tied up at each end, the middle being
 kept open by sticks, placed across from side to side.
 We searched for fresh water, but found none, ex-
 cept in a small hole which was dug in the sand.
 The next morning I sent a party of men to that
 part of the shore where we first landed, in order

to get water and wood: but going ashore, myself and the gentlemen soon afterwards found, upon a more diligent search, a small stream on the South side of the bay, more than sufficient for us. Upon visiting the hut where we had seen the children, we were greatly mortified to find that the beads and ribbons which we had left there the night before, had not been moved from the place, and not an Indian was to be seen. As soon as our wooders and waterers came on board to dinner, ten or twelve of the natives came down to the place, and looked with great attention and curiosity at their fire, but did not touch them. They took away the canoes which lay near the landing place, and again disappeared. In the afternoon our people going on shore, fifteen or eighteen Indians, all armed, came boldly within about one hundred yards of them, and then stopped. Mr. Hicks advanced to meet them, holding out protest to them as he approached, but to no effect; for before he could get to them, they retired. I went to a sandy cove on the North side of the bay, where, in three or four barrels with the scian, we took above three hundred weight of fish. Next morning Mr. Banks and Dr. Selander went on shore, and repaired to the woods. Our men, who were employed in cutting of grass, being the farthest from the main body of our people, a company of fifteen Indians advanced towards them, having sticks in their hands. The grass cutters seeing them approach, drew together, and moved towards the main body. The Indians, after shouting

several times, went back into the woods. We found many houses of the inhabitants, and places where they had slept upon the grass without any shelter, but we saw only one of the people, who ran away the moment he discovered us. The next day twelve canoes, in each of which was a single Indian, came to-wit, the watering place, they were employed in striking fish, and were so intent, that they evidently seemed to regard no thing else. A party of our people being out a shooting near the place, one of the Indians, roused by the report of the fowling piece, hauled his canoe upon the beach, came to the shooting party, and staid about a quarter of an hour; he then launched his canoe and went off.

Distribution of the Detachment of Marines for New South Wales, with the Number embarked on Board each Transport.

<i>Ship's Name.</i>	<i>Captain.</i>	<i>Sub.</i>	<i>Ser.</i>	<i>Corp.</i>	<i>Dr.</i>	<i>Pr.</i>
<i>Serious</i>	0	0	1	0	3	0
<i>Lady Penryn</i>	1	2	0	0	0	3
<i>Scarborough</i>	1	2	2	2	1	26
<i>Friendship</i>	1	2	2	3	1	36
<i>Charlotte</i>	1	2	3	3	5	34
<i>Alexander</i>	0	2	0	0	2	32
<i>Prince of Wales</i>	0	2	2	2	1	32

Total 4 12 12 12 8 100

Forty women, wives to the marines, permitted to go out with the garrison.



O ye that are in England, and live at home at ease,
 We warn'd by our poor lads that are forc'd to cross
 The sea, to seek the fairs, among savages to go,
 To leave friends and relations to work at the hoe,
 So all you giddy lads remember this in time,
 Lest you like unto us be forced in your prime
 To leave your native land, and sail to Botany Bay,
 Among the barbarous savages to become prey.
 Captain Cook he was the first British colour there
 And the power he bore the world did go,
 Likewise Sir Joseph Banks, the great maker of fame,
 But Captain Cook to England ne'er return'd again.
 When first into the new found place, O then that
 we come there,
 Every one to labour you know he must repair,
 To cultivate the land, all for to make it good,
 But many of our lads shall lose by the Indians
 from the woods.
 All you that's in England, and live at home at ease,
 We warn'd by our poor lads that are forc'd to cross
 The sea, to seek the fairs, among savages to go,
 To leave friends and relations to work at the hoe,
 So all you giddy lads remember this in time,
 Lest you like unto us be forced in your prime
 To leave your native land, and sail to Botany Bay,
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